

On page 34, in the second paragraph (after "Peptides used were:"), please amend the text as follows:

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Peptide 1: H₂N-GVPRRQRAIDKRQRA-COOH as shown in SEQ ID No. 7.

Peptide 2: H₂N-GQPHDTAPRGARKKQ-COOH as shown in SEQ ID No. 8.

Peptide 3: H₂N-AVDTGSGGGQPHDTAPRGARKKQ-COOH as shown in SEQ ID No. 5.

Peptide 4: H₂N-STAVAQSATPSVSSSISSLRAATSGATAAA-COOH as shown in SEQ ID No. 6.

Peptide 5: Combi-peptide of peptide 4 and 3 linked by S-S-bridging, using extra cysteine residues at the C-terminus of peptide 4 and the N-terminus of peptide 3.

On page 48, in line 1 (just before Claim 1), please delete the line reading "Claims:" and replace it with the following text:

A12 --THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:--

In the Abstract

After page 50, please insert page 51, "Abstract of the Disclosure," provided on a separate sheet and attached hereto in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(b).

In the Claims.

Please cancel Claims 1-5, 10-22, and 24. These claims were pursued in the parent applications or are drawn to non-elected inventions.

Please amend the claims as follows:

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6. (Amended) Nucleic acid sequence encoding a peptide immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), comprising at least part of the VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 protein, encoded within the EBV open reading frames BFRF3 and BdRF1, respectively, or a functional variant thereof.

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9. (Amended) A recombinant vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6.

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23. (Amended) Method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample using at least one nucleic acid sequence or fragment thereof according to claim 6 as primer(s) in order to perform a nucleic acid amplification of said Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence and to detect the amplified sequence.

Please add the following new claims:

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1. A recombinant vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 7.

2. A recombinant vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 8.

3. Method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample using at least one nucleic acid sequence or fragment thereof according to claim 7 as primer(s) in order to perform a nucleic acid amplification of said Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence and to detect the amplified sequence.

4. Method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample using at least one nucleic acid sequence or fragment thereof according to claim 8 as primer(s) in order to perform a nucleic acid amplification of said Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence and to detect the amplified sequence.
